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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 18 February 1992 from the representatives of Argentina and Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Statement sent by Mr. Carlos Saúl Menem, President of the Argentine Republic, and Mr. Fernando Collor, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, to the meeting to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, held at Mexico City on 14 February 1992 (see annex).

We request you to have this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament".

(Signed) Alfredo V. CHIARADIA
Minister
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the
Argentine Republic to the
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(Signed) Ronaldo Mota SARDENBERG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
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ANNEX

Joint Statement sent by the President of the Argentine Republic and the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the meeting to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, held at Mexico City on 14 February 1992

1. When we assumed the presidency of our countries, we gave a new, firm impetus towards a common nuclear policy, including the question of non-proliferation. We have always been guided by the desire to impart internal and external transparency to our nuclear programmes and to demonstrate to the international community the exclusively peaceful objectives that guide them, in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, whose twenty-fifth anniversary we are celebrating today.

2. This programme demonstrates the determination and political will of our Governments to reinforce regional and international peace and security, including the adoption of transparent verification machinery.

3. In that context, in the Declaration on a Common Nuclear Policy adopted at Foz de Iguazú on 28 November 1990, we agreed on three specific steps:

(a) The establishment of a Common System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials;

(b) The signing of a joint agreement on safeguards with the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(c) The adoption of initiatives conducive to the full entry into force of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in respect of the two countries, including efforts to update and improve its text.

4. The international community bears witness to the speed and effectiveness with which this undertaking has been achieved, which, as is well known, consists of:

(a) The Agreement between Argentina and Brazil for the Exclusively Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, signed on 18 July 1991 at Guadalajara, and already approved by the Congresses of the two countries and ratified by both Governments, which represents the implementation of the first step;

(b) The signing, on 13 December 1991, of the Agreement between Argentina, Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Implementation of Safeguards.

5. Today we are taking effective measures to realize the third and last undertaking of the Declaration of Foz de Iguazú. At the earliest possible opportunity we shall submit for the consideration of the Agency for the

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America some amendments to the text of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which are largely of a technical nature and in no way affect its principles and objectives.

6. We request all countries in our region to provide the support indispensable for this initiative, the purpose of which is to facilitate the implementation of the Treaty.

7. We congratulate the Government of France on its decision to ratify the Additional Protocol I of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which will contribute - we hope, in the near future - to establishing definitively its legal validity for the entire region for which it is intended.

8. All these recent developments, which indicate the profound and shared desire to establish Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone free from nuclear weapons, lead us to the common conviction that the completion of the process just announced, namely, approval of the amendments to the text of the Treaty, will clear the way to its entry into force in our countries.

9. Thus, Argentina and Brazil are contributing in a clear and positive manner to the establishment of a new international climate characterized by cooperation and by the promotion of confidence among nations, as central elements to the maintenance of international peace and security.